



Celery



History

Celery has been grown and used by humans for over 3000 years. It was first grown around the Mediterranean Sea and was used by Greeks and Romans as medicine. It wasn't used as a food crop until the 1600's.



It is unknown when celery was first grown in the United States. In 1806, it is known that at least 4 varieties of celery were being grown in the US. Today, the Pascal variety of celery is the most common commercially grown celery crop. It was first grown in Kalamazoo, MI in 1847. California, Florida, and Michigan grow the most celery in the United States

Fun facts

- It takes only one ounce of celery seeds to grow 1 acre of celery
- 1 acre of farm field holds 32,000-42,000 celery plants
- Celery is related to carrots, fennel, and parsley
- Celery seeds are the size of a period (.) typed in 12 point font
- Celery is second to lettuce as a US salad crop
- Celery won't be picked until the stalks are at least 10 inches long
- To prevent celery from losing its crispness, soak it in ice water

Celeriac

Celeriac is a type of celery that is grown for its large root. The root grows to be about the size of a potato and may be eaten cooked or raw. The root is often used in soups and stews.



Growth

Celery seeds are planted in green houses and are allowed to grow for 2 months. After the 2 month period, the seedlings are transplanted to the field where they grow for another 4-5 months. During this time, the celery plants are watered regularly to provide the necessary water and nutrients to allow the plant to grow.



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